S.F. Bay Area Committee
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CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY
BOX 150 • 308 WESTWOOD PLAZA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

STEVEN J. BURTON, National Chairman

Oct. 7, 1968

Dear Hal,

I'm sorry that I could not write you sooner than this but since I've returned I, as you know, have been terribly busy trying to get squared away both in so far as a job is concerned and a place to live. I now have both after a long time seeking them. As for my job I think it best to explain that when I see you and in so far as my new address is concerned I think it best to have you write to me at Tom's address in El Cerrito for I have not yet forwarded my mail. I'm actually testing my apartment out for a month to see how it is before I make a decision how long I'll stay at this address. Since I stop by Tom's place daily to pick up mail or see if any calls have been made there's no chance of me missing any mail from you.

The next few days I'll be contacting Joe Dolan, Jim Eason, and others about getting you spots on radio, TV, etc. Herb Caen is away in London and should be back soon & I will definitely contact him.

How long do you plan on staying in S.F.? It's important to know this as soon as possible for me to make any arrangements beyond the days past the 21st. I'm leaving any openings with ABC (Ward radio) to Jerry because of his contact with them. I'd prefer doing this myself, of course, but in any event I'll nail down any schedule he's made to be certain there's no margin

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for error on his part in planning your tour.

Before I forget I'm enclosing a very interesting article that appeared in an excellent small magazine known as "New South." The article appeared in the Spring, 1968 issue and was entitled = "A Look Inside the Invisible Empire" by Robert Sherrill (the Washington editor for the "Nation" magazine). I have prepared an index to names, organizations, newspapers and newsletters contained in the article but do not have it typed up yet to send you. (Unfortunately, one of the keys to my typewriter broke and I can't use it until it is repaired. That's why I'm writing to you by pen instead of typing but as soon as I get paid I'll have the typewriter fixed).

Several things occurred to me concerning Sherrill's article which may be of some help concerning "Coup D'Etat". First, with his connections at the "Nation" it is possible he could use his influence to get them aware of your work. Second, it's my guess that Sherrill is probably unaware of what the Archives contains concerning right-wing extremist activity before the JFK assassination and I'm fairly certain he is not familiar with the Miami tape and the Militer report. By the way, did you see the New Orleans States-Item story on Militer buried in the backpages of the Sept. 27th issue? What do you know of this alleged "diary" mentioned in the story kept by Florida Assistant Attorney General Seymour Gelber? I've seen no mention of this anywhere

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except for the States-Item and I'm curious to know more about this. All of this, I'm sure is undoubtedly new to Sherrill and I'm sure he'd be very interested in learning of it especially from you. He may not be able to use his influence but there are other ways he can help out. Sherrill appears to have an excellent knowledge of the South and his many references to the NSRP (p. 7, 19, 21, 23–30), Minutemen (p. 26–28) and right-wing newsletters indicates he has good files (and perhaps tapes of speeches delivered) at his fingertips. Perhaps you could write him on this or at least meet with him to discuss what he has or is aware of.

One thing I noticed in this article you should ask Sherrill about is the reference to the 1965 Louisiana Legislative Committee report on Un-American Activities (p. 11). Perhaps Fensterwald can get the report and get to the files on which the report was based (Bill Turner, for example, is looking into the Attorney General's files from what John says regarding the California Attorney General Report of 1965 on Para-Military Activities so I see no reason why Fensterwald exercising his Congressional authority cannot do the same).

What do you think of contacting J. W. West (p. 16) editor of the Laurel "Leader-Call" also? If he were to take up the issue in his paper you can imagine what repercussions would ensue. Perhaps, I'm dreaming this could occur, but it may be worth a try.

Notice the reference in Sherrill's account of the

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"Patriotic Party" (P. 25, 26) as being the "political arm" of the Minutemen "resistance". I wonder what information Sherrill has on this. It could be helpful for your purposes.

Jonn sent me up to the Napa county area (about 40 to 50 miles from San Francisco) to look into somethings connected with the Sirhan case. I was able to learn the following while I was there. (I'll explain more when I see you). Apparently Rev. Owen is in some way connected with an organization known as the "Appaloosa Horse Club." (In what way Jonn did not establish but I'll be seeing him in a few days to further brief him. I phoned him from Napa and relayed what I learned while I was there).

The Horse Club has a P.O. Box mailing address at = Box 403, Moscow, Idaho and the Executive Secretary is George B. Hatley. It was founded in 1938, has a membership of some 19,000 and has a group (or groups) in all 50 states. The staff of the Club numbers 26 persons (one of whom must be the advertising manager for my friend Tom showed me an ad on Page 27 of the August, 1968 issue of "Horse and Rider", published in Covina, California). The Club deals with "breeders, cattlemen (my underlining), sportsmen and pleasure horse owners of spotted horses known in the Northwest as Appaloosas." The Club collects records of historical data about the origin of appaloosas and files records, issues certificates

of registration for foundation stock of the breed, and preserves, improves and standardizes the breed. The Club also publishes the "Appaloosa News", a monthly. It held its annual convention in 1967 in Walla Walla, Washington. (I have no info on where it held its 1968 convention but I'd be very interested in knowing who was present at the '67 one). I'll see what I can dig up on this by the time you arrive.

Whatever the above may lead to I cannot state at this time but if you'll recall Mr. "Frenchie" is alleged to have been a cattleman and LBJ's biggest support would logically come from men associated in this area. Also note Sirhan's knowledge of horses and his working around them. (Incidentally, while I was in Napa I learned of the existence of one person who deals with Appaloosa horses (I gave the name to Jonn over the phone and it apparently tied in with something else for he knew of the name). I might also point out that the Napa area has several horse breeders who work with arabian horses (I have a complete list, some of which Jonn now has).

Before I forget, I came across a very excellent directory of both left and right wing groups in this country. It has info on such groups as the NSRP, for example. It's called: "From Radical Left to Extreme Right" by Robert H. Muller, editor (1967). It was published by: Campus Publishers, 711 North University Ave., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108. The work is well worth owning and I suggest you write for a copy.

I spoke with Dave Lifton this week. Some things he mentioned I know you'll be interested in knowing.

First, he claims a "major media" in Los Angeles is pursuing leads on the RFK murder suggesting conspiracy. Dave said his source (he would not name as the media) indicates a conspiracy involving "arab nationalists" and the "California American right-wing". So interested was the D.A.'s office in L.A. in what this media was turning up that the D.A. followed the media men around close on their heels. (Like the FBI did in the JFK case).

Dave mentioned that he received a phone call from Mae Brussell (she lives at Rt. 2, Box 3050, Carmel, Calif.) (Phone # 408-624-9103). Mae wanted to know if Dave had heard what the Rev. Broshears had said about Kerry Thornley. Dave replied that he hadn't and asked if I had heard about this. I said I hadn't and he said he would look further into this. When I learn (or if you want to write her) I'll tell you what this concerns.

Speaking about Thornley, Dave mentioned that Epstein's book will apparently have at least one chapter dealing with Thornley (perhaps not totally devoted to him) for Dave said that Epstein two months ago had promised to send Dave some chapters on Thornley which Dave promised he would go over. Dave has yet to receive these & my guess is, he won't, either).

Lifton said he was in Liebeler's office last week & Liebeler was waxing enthusiastically over a new book entitled = "Bulletin from Dallas = The President is Dead" by Charles B. Mayo, Jr. Suggest you get a copy in case Liebeler might use it when you're in L.A. I've no idea why Liebeler thinks highly of it (other than its apparent support of the lone assassin theory).

Lifton asked me if I knew of a "Edward Horsey", formerly of the mid-west, and now of Florida. Apparently Horsey wrote to Sylvia Meagher claiming to be a friend of Thornley (which Sylvia established wasn't so for, according to Dave, she checked with Thornley). Dave hasn't discussed this with Kerry yet. Horsey claims to have been with RFK once and that RFK said to him that Garrison was "nothing but a phony" but that RFK also said that once he became President he would re-open the case. Have you heard of Horsey or any of your Florida contacts?

Did you see the article in "Time" magazine several weeks ago on William Bradford Huie's claim that there may have been a conspiracy in the killing of Martin Luther King. Has anyone contacted him about this and what his reasons for making such a statement?

I'm now going thru your manuscript on the executive sessions trying to notate corrections, criticisms, etc. as I go along. I'll return it to Paul as soon as possible.

Your comments to Paul in your letter (dated 8/27/68) (about Tom Bethell) interested me because I recall once having Stan Primmer almost a year ago write to Bethell about digging up further information on Rev. Broshears but we got no reply from him. I was surprised Bethell had not answered that letter for I am sure that Primmer's letter was very exacting and I'm curious to know what Bethell's answer would be when he did not answer Stan (especially in lieu of the fact that Bill Turner

had told me that the information I came across on Broshears (back in January) was "very hot". Hot enough for Garrison but not for Bethell? This puzzled me and still does. I'm curious to know what kind of FBI interest you learned they had in Tom when you get here. ~~None of the~~

None of the names you mentioned in your letter to Paul of 8/26/68 ring a bell except possibly for "Hal Aversec." For some reason his rings a bell, but I cannot recall why. It could be his name was included in a list of potential witnesses Garrison was subpoenaing to appear which the States-Item or Picayune printed.

Have never heard of Hersey (of Michigan) and any book he is working on.

Speaking of books I call your attention to the following items: ① The American Book Collector, at 1822 School St., Chicago, Illinois 60657 has its summer, 1968 edition entitled: "The Assassination Industry" by Thomas M. McDade. ② The Sat. Rev. of 8/24/68 lists "Should We Now Believe the Warren Report?" by Stephen White (Macmillan: $7.95; + paperback: $1.95). ③ "Publisher's Weekly" (Fall Announcements), Sept., 1968 has a small commentary on "The Kennedy Conspiracy" by Paris Flammonde & Eric Norden (to be published Nov. 8; $6.95 by Meredith Press. (Flammonde once produced the Long John Nebel radio show you appeared on). ④ I understand that Norden has completed or will complete his book on the Malcolm X murder in London. Know anything about this?

I noticed that page 257 of the CD 1347 refers to a movie film as "Woman Who Allegedly Obtained Movie Film of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy." I believe Dick Sprague should be apprised of this and see if he can track it down.

I'm very interested in learning more about what you source on Brennan's getting mail from Arab countries. Could this somehow tie in with Sirhan and the things I discussed earlier in this letter.

I noticed Fensterwald uses a "Group Research" to dig up information for him. I may be wrong but I believe that this group is headed by a Gordon Hall and if so he is to be very much guarded against. When the first American student group that broke the travel ban to Cuba went in 1963, Hall got a Barry Hoffman to infiltrate. Hoffman later testified before HUAC. Curiously enough, Robert Kaffke whom you met while here, was Hoffman's room-mate on the trip. (I don't mean to cast suspicion on Kaffke for he never suspected Hoffman of being a spy although Kaffke told me of several instances in which he caught Hoffman doing some curious things while the students were in Cuba).

Regarding your letter of 9/29/68 to Paul Hoch: the Oswald-Militant photo. Yes, I'm very much interested in this one because if it turns out that you're right about there being a woman being in the background it makes a very curious incident loom more important than ever. Recall (I don't know if I wrote you or mentioned it verbally) my telling you about Marvin Garson (now edita of the S.F. Express Times) once visiting Oswald's landlady and catching Marina by that fence

with a Russian emigre' while both Garson & the landlady (I believe Mrs. Roberts) looked with amazement as Marina darted from sight when the two discovered them there. It had me puzzled at the time but I never pursued the matter further with Garson. If I can't get to see Garson on this, I'll see that you see him when you're here. It could be relevant.

Your mention of "one Bicion" involved in the death of Forrestal (your letter to Paul of 9/24/68) could be a reference to Benny (Cowboy) Bicion discussed in in the January 1968 Ramparts article by Turner (on Garrison). (see p. 61). Bicion associated with gambler Russell D. Matthews, described only as a "passing acquaintance" of Ruby's. Bicion was Matthews idol during the heyday of the Dallas rackets a few decades ago. Bicion moved to Las Vegas to found the "Horshoe Club." Recall that the Warren Report notes that on Oct. 3, 1963 Matthews ex-wife in Shreveport received a long phone call from Ruby's Carousel Club. The Report noted that Matthews denied knowing anything about Ruby's "jeep deal" and let it drop at that. (P. 369 of WR) I believe, also, that CE 1689 has something on this. That's why your letter to Hoch referring to "Ruby and the underworld" could be relevant.

Also am interested in your comment to Paul (9/3/68) that "something happened when Steve (Burton) was there" (at Tom's place in El Cerrito) convincing you that Tom's phone is bugged. We're both curious to know what this was.

Your info on there being a "link between Brosheers & the Feebees" (letter to Hoch 9/13/68) also suggests Bethell (or am I being paranoic. Steve Burton has info on this also — he'll show you.

Must close now. I'm sure you've got enough to read for now. Best,

P.S. Enclosing Jim Schmitt material with letter also. Hal 2.

P.S. Also forgot to mention, I'm resuming my class at S.F. State College. Would like you to speak before it on Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 22nd. Unless I get a better radio or TV-spot I hope you can ~~can't~~ make this. I must know, however, by Oct. 13th to get a notice in the Berkeley Barb.

Best,
Again,
Hal V.